

Environmental Public Health Tracking Grant



Purpose of Cooperative Agreements with States

- Develop plans and components of an environmental public health tracking system
- Increase environmental public health capacity at local, state and national level

The Goal

- Increase our understanding about the relationship between environmental exposures and health effects.

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MAINE's COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD

- \$562,624 for Sept. 2002 – Sept. 2003
- Non-competitive renewals for 03/04 & 04/05

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Required Award Recipient Activities - ASSESSMENT

- Assess existing hazard and exposure monitoring and health effect surveillance systems
- Assess existing organizational, personnel and technical infrastructure to identify issues to be addressed in integrating & linking data and establishing an integrated EPH Tracking Network
- Assess feasibility of using Environmental Public Health Indicators for surveillance
- Assess needs and concerns of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

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Required Award Recipient Activities – DEVELOP STANDARDS

- Environmental Public Health Indicators
- Assess needs and concerns of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Do hospitals experience increase emergency department visits during episodes of high ozone?

Environmental Health Perspectives 103, Supplement 2, March 1995

[\[Citation in PubMed\]](#)

Relationship between Summertime Ambient Ozone Levels and Emergency Department Visits for Asthma in Central New Jersey

Clifford P. Weisel, Ronald P. Cody, and Paul J. Liroy

UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School - Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey

Environmental Health Perspectives, Volume 104, Number 12, December 1996

[\[Citation in PubMed\]](#) [\[Related Articles\]](#)

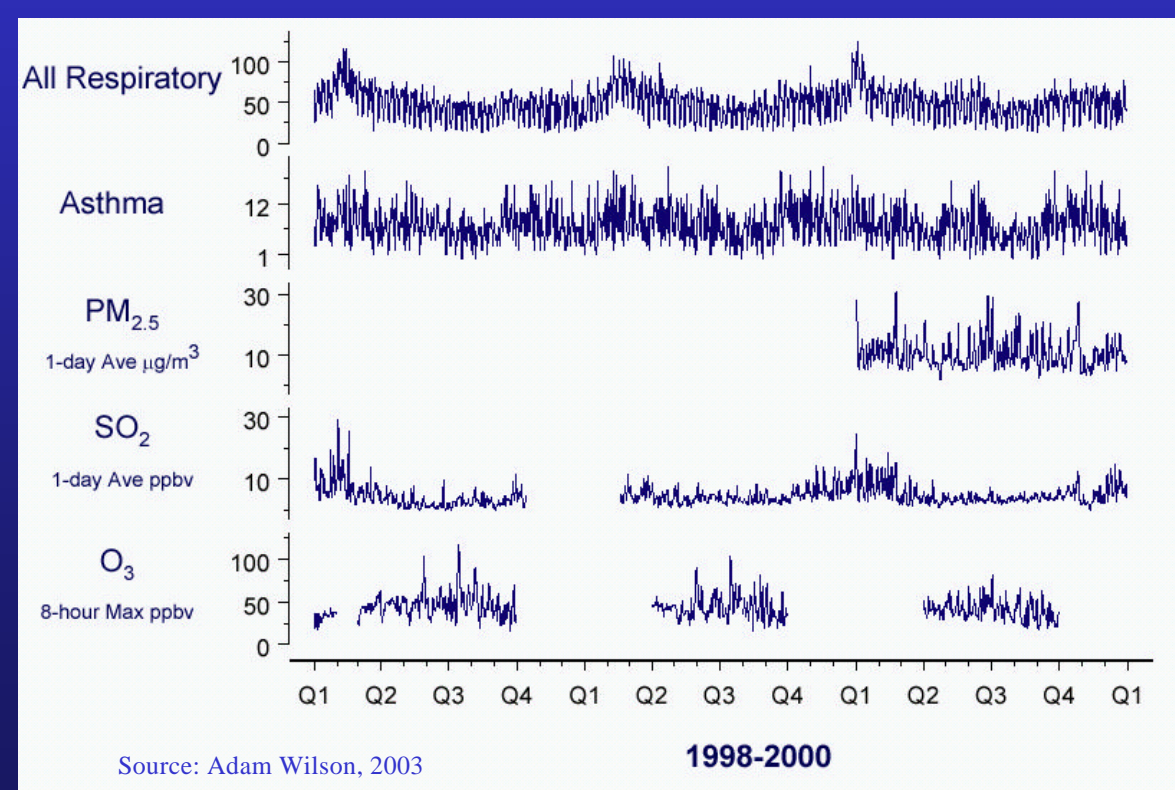
Association between Ozone and Asthma Emergency Department Visits in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada

David M. Stieb,¹ Richard T. Burnett,² Robert C. Beveridge,³ and Jeffrey R. Brook⁴

¹Air Quality Health Effects Research Section, Health Canada; ²Biostatistics Division, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; ³Department of Emergency Medicine, Region 2 Hospital Corporation, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada; ⁴Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, Downsview, Ontario, Canada

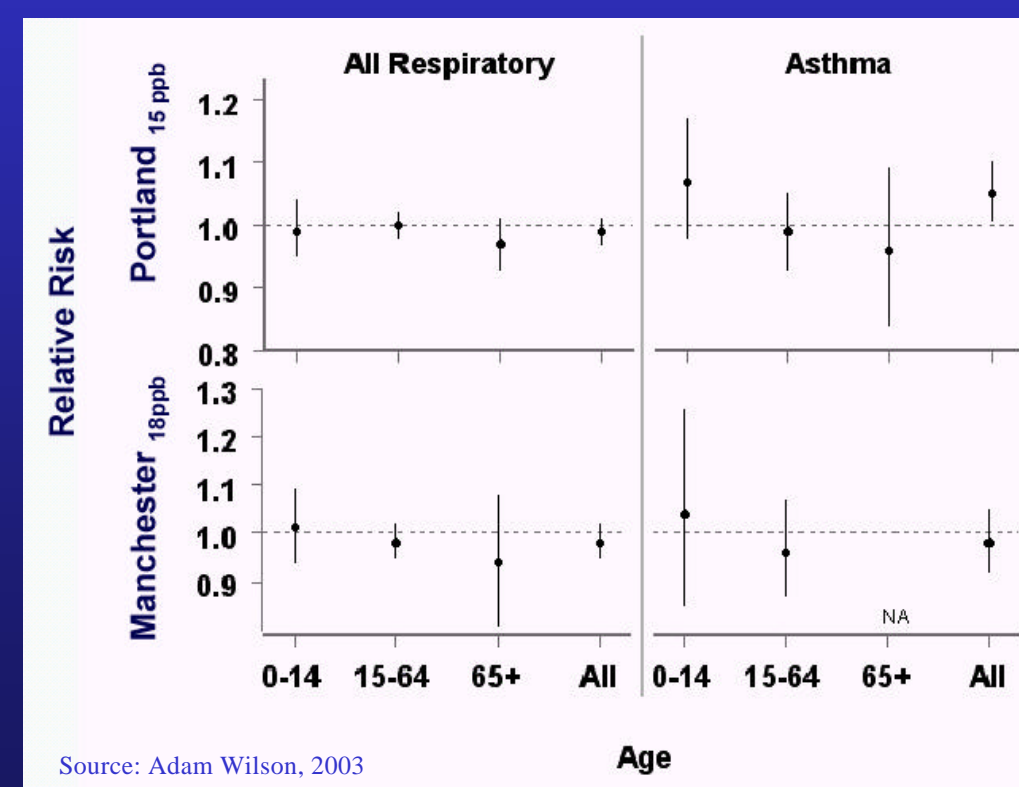
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- Do **Maine** hospitals experience increase emergency department visits during episodes of high ozone?



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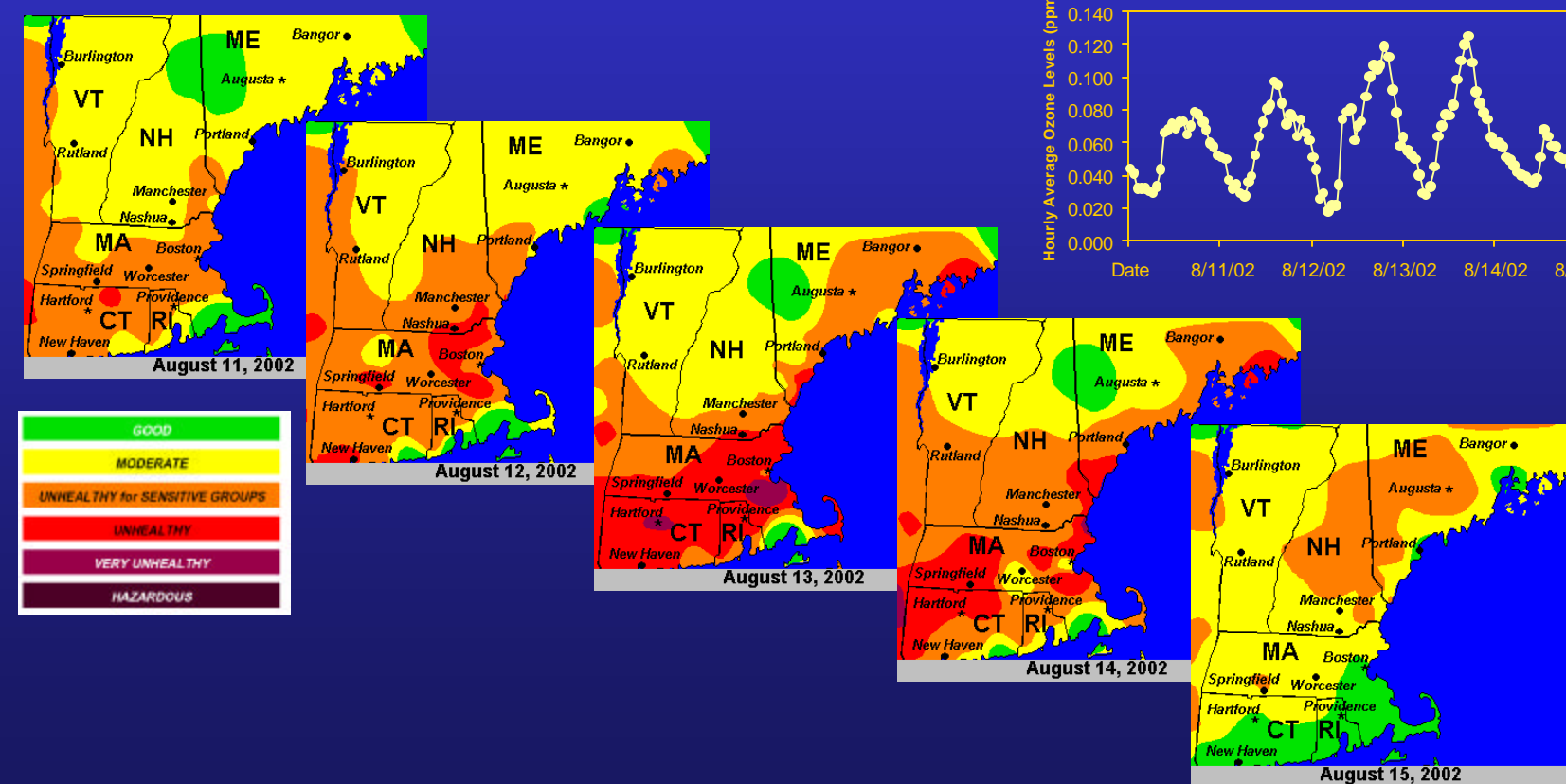
- Do **Portland** hospitals experience increase emergency department visits during episodes of high ozone?



Source: Adam Wilson, 2003

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- Is it possible to develop a “real-time” surveillance system that would allow us to respond to air pollution events?



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- Is it possible to evaluate the effectiveness of public health interventions intended to reduce morbidity associated with ozone events?

24 Hour Ozone Forecast

	May 30, 2003		May 31, 2003	
Northern	Good		Good	
Interior	Good		Good	
Coastal	Good		Good	

 **Maine Department
of Environmental Protection** 

Press release, web-site, toll-free ozone hotline

Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Is it possible to develop a “real-time” surveillance system that would allow us to respond to natural events?



Smoke from Quebec Forest Fires

Bangor Daily News, used with permission.

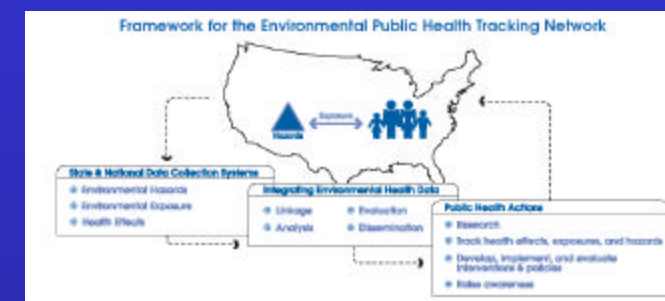


January 98 Ice Storm

Portland Press Herald

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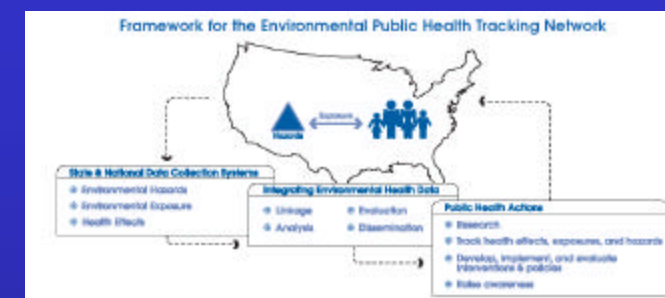
A Vision



- Tracking of effects of environmental hazards on health status through linkage of hazard and health effects databases
- Improved public health response through “real-time” reporting of data during pollution / disaster events
- Evaluation of public health intervention measures

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Potential Issues



- **Access to data:** confidentiality/legal concerns, other privacy concerns, burden of reporting
- **Utility of data:** data definitions, data standards, data objectives
- **When to link** – Surveillance versus Research versus Fishing

Environmental Public Health Tracking

Potential Priority Topic Areas

- Ambient air pollution
- Arsenic in well water
- Lead in paint & dust
- Radon in indoor air
- Methylmercury in fish
- Carbon Monoxide in indoor air

Why these ones?

- Degree of public health hazard
- Available hazard/exposure data
- Potential linkages with health data
- Intervention evaluation needs